

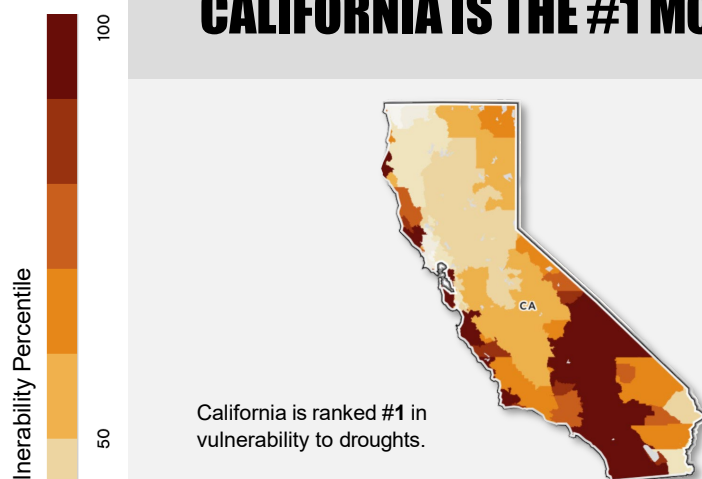
# CLIMATE RISKS GROW FOR CALIFORNIA FARMS

Thanks to California, our meals are made with the highest quality fruits and vegetables. But hotter temperatures and less predictable weather patterns caused by climate change are drying out fertile farmland and threatening the health and livelihood of farmers and ranchers. Congress can't turn its back on hard-working Californians – and the farm bill is the best opportunity to seed a more productive and resilient agricultural system.

## WHY THE U.S. NEEDS CALIFORNIA

No U.S. state produces more fruits, nuts and vegetables than California, which ranks first in the country for agricultural sales. California is the fifth-largest supplier of food and other agricultural products in the world. However, these important commodities face climate threats according to the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), a screening tool developed in partnership between EDF, Texas A&M University and community-based stakeholders. The CVI provides us with a better understanding of the growing climate risks facing farmers and ranchers by visualizing how drivers of cumulative vulnerability harm communities across the United States.

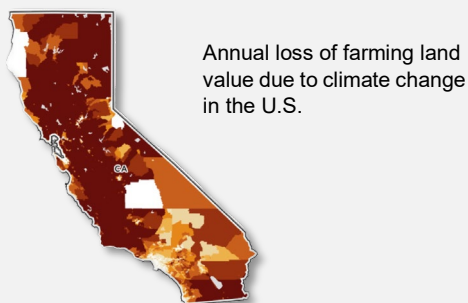
### CALIFORNIA IS THE #1 MOST VULNERABLE STATE TO DROUGHTS



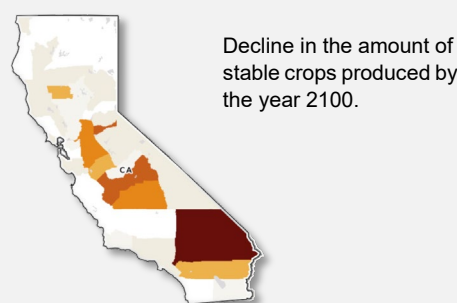
#### DROUGHT

Data from the CVI indicates that census tracts across the state are vulnerable to droughts. In extreme droughts, many crops will struggle to maintain their regular growing cycles, potentially increasing crop failures and raising concerns about the health and safety of farm workers.

#### AG LAND VALUE



#### CROP YIELDS



**These climate vulnerabilities will disrupt agricultural production systems across the state and will have major consequences to the state's economy as well as the national food supply.**

# CALIFORNIA FARMERS NEED CONGRESS TO HELP THEM STAY PRODUCTIVE

California's farmers and ranchers need more technical and financial support to best respond to a changing climate. Many are already implementing cover crops, no-till, split nutrient application and other conservation practices on their farms. Farmers and ranchers know their land better than anyone. They know what they need to do to stay competitive and productive.

California farmers are also leading the way in reducing their water use. The 2024 farm bill is an opportunity to continue to support these practices. California's voluntary land repurposing effort has been an exemplary program in this regard, and the California delegation has been active in helping farmers get additional resources to support the transition to a future with less groundwater available for irrigation.

Programs administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, are also available to help improve the resilience of farms and ranches. These programs are incredibly popular, but the \$6 billion allocated for them in the 2018 Farm Bill doesn't go far enough. That's why up to two-thirds of applications for these voluntary programs are rejected each year.



## THE SOLUTION

For this farm bill, California farmers need Congress to help them stay productive in a changing climate while also reducing environmental impacts.

Otherwise, we risk the food on our tables.